GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:551
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2002
BUFFER ZONES FOR LEOPARDS .
SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the project worked out by Maharashtra State Forest Department with regard to creation of buffer zones on forest boundaries for trapped leopards as reported in the `Indian Express` dated December 29, 2001`

(b) if so, the details of the project indicting its main objectives; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to introduce such schemes/projects in other areas of the country haunted by tiger, leopards, panthers and lions?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a)&(b) Forest Department of Maharashtra Government has been trapping the panthers from the fringe forest areas abutting human habitation and translocating the same into suitable leopard habitats. This is done to reduce the number of panthers in the buffer area. The panthers that can not be rehabilitated in the wild are kept in rescue centres.

(c) Wildlife Institute of India has been organising courses on tranquilisation and translocation of wild animals for the field managers.